

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KINSHA 07172 210832Z

11

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

----- 004487

P 201720Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9034

S E C R E T KINSHASA 7172

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, US, PO, AO

SUBJECT: FONMIN UMBA-DI-LUTETE COMMENTS EXPECTANTLY
ON ZAIRE-US RELATIONS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. UMBA-DI-LUTETE SPOKE GLOWINGLY OF US-ZAIRIAN RELATIONS IN OUR FIRST MEETING, AUGUST 20, AND INDICATED HE WAS AWAITING SOME KIND OF FAVORABLE DECISION FROM WASHINGTON AS A RESULT OF HIS AUGUST 12 CONVERSATION WITH THE SECRETARY. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCOMPANIED BY A FEW MEMBERS OF MY STAFF, I WAS CONVOKED BY UMBA TO PRESENT COPIES OF MY LETTERS OF CREDENCE. HE RECEIVED US CORDIALLY AND WAS KIND ENOUGH TO PUT ME AT EASE BY RECALLING GOOD THINGS THE SECRETARY HAS SAID TO HIM ABOUT ME DURING THEIR AUGUST 12 MEETING. HE THEN WENT ON TO CHARACTERIZE US-ZAIRE RELATIONS AS HAVING BEEN PARTICULARLY GOOD FROM THE VERY BEGINNING BECAUSE OF THE SPECIAL ROLE WE HAD PLAYED HERE DURING THE DIFFICULT TIMES IMMEDIATELY AFTER INDEPENDENCE. HE SAID OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH MY PREDECESSORS HAD BEEN UNIFORMLY EXCELLENT AND THERE WAS EVERY REASON FOR THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS TO CONTINUE. I SAID I CONSIDERED THIS EXCELLENT RECORD A CHALLENGE AND WOULD DO MY UTMOST TO MEET IT WORKING WITH UMBA AND OTHERS. I URGED THAT OUR FUTURE RELATIONS BE BASED ON COMPLETELY FRANK EXCHANGES OF VIEWS SO THAT ANY DIFFERENCES COULD BE IDENTIFIED AND DISCUSSED IN ALL FRIENDLINESS.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 KINSHA 07172 210832Z

3. UMBA SAID HE HAD HAD A MOST USEFUL CONVERSATION WITH THE SECRETARY AND WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO RECEIVING FAVORABLE NEWS FROM ME ON THE SUBJECT VERY SOON. HE DID NOT SAY JUST WHAT THE SUBJECT WAS, PERHAPS BECAUSE SO MANY OF OUR COLLABORATORS WERE PRESENT, BUT HE RETURNED TO THIS THEME MORE THAN ONCE. ON ONE OCCASION HE REFERRED TO "A GIFT" THAT HE HAD TOLD PRESIDENT MOBUTU MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING. I WAS NON-COMMITTAL, REPLYING AT ONE POINT THAT I TOO HAD BEEN EXPECTING A FAVOR FROM THE SECRETARY AND HAD BEEN AMPLY REWARDED WITH ASSIGNMENT TO KINSHASA. UMBA SAID HE HAD PROMISED THE SECRETARY THAT HE WOULD MAKE SURE THERE WAS NO DELAY IN MY PRESENTING MY CREDENTIALS.

4. UMBA SAID ONE CRITICISM OF US POLICY THAT HE OFTEN RAISED WITH HIS AMERICAN FRIENDS WAS ITS TENDENCY TO GIVE PRIORITY ATTENTION TO SUCH NON-AFRICAN PROBLEMS AS VIETNAM, MIDDLE EAST, ARAB OIL (AT WHICH POINT I INTERRUPTED TO REMIND HIM THAT ARAB OIL WAS OF EQUAL CONCERN TO ZAIRE, A POINT HE READILY ACCEPTED). UMBA SAID HE HAD TOLD UNDER SECRETARY SISCO THAT THE US SHOULD GIVE A LITTEL MORE ATTENTION TO AFRICA AND HAD BEEN GRATIFIED WHEN SHORTLY AFTER THE CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATIONS, AFRICAN AMBASSADORS IN WASHINGTON HAD BEEN RECEIVED. I POINTED OUT DIFFICULTY OF TURNING GENERAL CONCERN FOR WELFARE OF A CONTINENT INTO US POLICY SATISFACTORY TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES IN THAT CONTINENT, CITING MY LATIN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE. UMBA AGREED, BUT SAID IT WAS CLEAR THAT AT PRESENT BLACK AFRICA HAD ONE MAJOR CONCERN, DECOLONIZATION. I SAID THIS WAS CERTAINLY THE AFRICAN PROBLEM OF HIGHEST CONCERN TO MY GOVERNMENT AT PRESENT TIME.

5. COMMENT. THE MEETING WENT WELL, BUT THE RESPEATED REFERENCES TO EXPECTATIONS OF IMPORTANT, FAVORABLE FALL-OUT FROM UMBA'S MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY WERE SOMEWHAT DISQUIETING. SEE KINSHASA 7171. HINTON

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KINSHA07172
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740230-0229
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740834/aaaabcrr.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FONMIN UMBA-DI-LUTETE COMMENTS EXPECTANTLY ON ZAIRE-US RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, CG, US, PO, AO, (UMBA-DI-LUTETE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005